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(54) Title: SPINE FIXATION INSTRUMENTATION			
(57) Abstract			
<p>This invention is a spine fixation instrumentation including a rod (11) and lateral mass screws (12, 15) which can be fixed at any of a range of orientations relative to the rod. Connectors (22, 25) are used to couple the rod (11) to the screws (12, 15). Sleeves (32, 35, 36, 37) are wedged between yokes (16, 26) and the rod (11) or shafts (27) on the other hand. The sleeves (32, 35, 36, 37) are assembled and disassembled by instruments (50, 80) similar to pliers.</p>			

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SPINE FIXATION INSTRUMENTATION

This invention relates to orthopedic fixation instrumentation finding particular utility in the setting of the cervical spine.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

When placing lateral mass screws in the cervical spine it is desirable in certain situations to have the screw project into the bone upwardly and outwardly at an angle of approximately 30 degrees upward and 30 degrees outward. It 10 is difficult to achieve such orientation with existing instrumentation without bending of the road making up a part of the instrumentation. Presently available instrumentation does not permit optional screw placement and does not permit independent screw placement. Further, after presently 15 available instrumentation has served its purpose and it is time for it's disassembly from the patient, disassembly is frequently difficult and time consuming. Still another problem with existing instrumentation is that it is relatively difficult to assemble and install. Further, there 20 is not presently available for the cervical spine a system for fixing lateral mass screws to a rod. This invention is intended to address these problems.

The following references disclose instrumentation for fixation of the spine: USP 4,662,365 Gotzen et al.; USP 25 4,887,596 Sherman; USP 4,957,495 Kluger; and USP 5,254,118 Mirkovic. The following references disclose instrumentation for correcting various spinal deformities and related matters: USP 4,433,676 to Babechko; USP 4,773,402 to Asher et al.; USP 4,815,453 to Cotrel; USP 5,010,879 to Moriya et

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al.; USP 5,092,866 to Bread et al.; USP 5,147,359 to Cozad et
al.; USP 5,147,360 to Dubousset; USP 5,154,718 to Cozad et
al.; 5,181,917 to Rogozinski; 5,201,734 to Cozad et al.;
5,217,497 to Mehdian; 5,281,222 to Allard et al. and European
5 patent application 0 452 792 A1.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of the present invention might involve an orthopedic fixation instrumentation including a screw threaded at one end for insertion into the bone and having a 5 first yoke at the other end. There is also provided a rod adapted to be arranged parallel to the spine. A first connector is used to fixedly connect the screw to the rod. The first connector includes a second yoke and a first shaft mounted on the second yoke. A first tapered sleeve is 10 received on the shaft and is wedged between the first yoke and the shaft and fixes the screw to the connector. A second tapered sleeve is received on the rod and is wedged between the second yoke and the rod and fixes the connector to the rod.

15 Another embodiment of the present invention might involve a method for fixation of the spine including providing a first screw threaded at one end and having a first yoke at the other end. The first screw is screwed into the bone at a desired attitude and location. A rod is arranged parallel to 20 the spine. A first connector is provided which has a second yoke and a first shaft mounted on said second yoke. The method further includes the steps of wedging a first tapered sleeve on said shaft and between said shaft and said first yoke, and wedging a second tapered sleeve on said rod and 25 between said rod and said second yoke.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a rear elevational view of the cervical spine showing the installed instrumentation of this invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a portion of the
5 structure illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the structure of
Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of the structure of
Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

10 Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a connector making up a part of the instrumentation.

Fig. 6 is a further side elevation of the connector taken at 90 degrees to Fig. 5.

15 Fig. 7 is an end elevation of a sleeve making up a part of the instrumentation.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of the sleeve of Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a view taken at 90 degrees to the view of Fig.
3 and also showing an installation tool.

20 Fig. 9A is a fragmentary view taken at 90 degrees to the view of Fig. 9 showing the jaw of the tool.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of still another installation tool showing it coupled to a lateral mass screw of the present invention.

Fig. 11 is a side elevational view of the tool of Fig. 10.

25 Fig. 12 is a side elevational view of a tool for disassembly of the instrumentation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiment illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, such alterations and further modifications in the illustrated device, and such further applications of the principles of the invention as illustrated therein being contemplated as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

Referring to Fig. 1 there is shown a rear elevation of the cervical spine 10. The spinal fixation instrumentation installed therein includes a rod 11 extending generally parallel to the spine and lateral mass screws 12 and 15 which are threaded into the bone. A representative one 12 of the lateral mass screws (which are identical) is shown in Fig. 2 as including a yoke 16 and a threaded portion 17. The yoke 16 and the threaded portion 17 each have axes 20 and 21 which are perpendicular to one another.

The rod 11 is coupled to the screw 12 by connector 22. Similarly the screw 15 is coupled to the rod 11 by a connector 25. The connectors 22 and 25 are identical and connector 22 is described below as representative of the connector 25 as well. The connector 22 includes a yoke 26 and a shaft 27 integral with the yoke 26. The yoke 26 and shaft 27 have respectively axes 30 and 31 which are perpendicular to one another.

The structure illustrated in Fig. 1 is fixed together by sleeves 32, 35, 36 and 37 all of which are identical. A representative one of the sleeves is shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8. The external surface 40 of the sleeve 32 is generally cylindrical but is also tapered. Thus in one representative

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example of the invention the sleeve 32 tapers from .208 in. +/- .001 at 41 to .198 in. +/- .001 at 42. The lengthwise distance 45 of the sleeve in the tapered area is .276 inches.

In order to couple the various parts of the instrumentation together the sleeves 32, 35, 36 and 37 are driven into respective yokes 26, 16, 26 and 16. Each of the yokes have an internal part cylindrical configuration which in the representative sample of the invention had an internal diameter of .206 in. +/- .002. When the sleeve 32, 35, 36 and 37 is driven into the yoke it also is caused to tightly grip the rod 11 or shaft 27. The external dimension or outside diameter of the rod 11 and shafts 27 is in the representative example equal to .138 inches.

It can be seen that the present instrumentation makes possible orienting the lateral mass screws at a range of distances from the rod and at any desired angle or altitude.

Referring to Fig. 9 there is illustrated a tool for forcing the sleeves 23, 25, 26 and 37 into the respective yokes. The tool is similar to a pair of pliers in that it has jaws so as to engage the respective sleeves and yokes to force the sleeves into the yokes and to wedge the sleeve between the yoke and the rod or shaft. The jaws 50 are shaped so as to provide a slot 51 which surrounds the rod or shaft so that the jaws can properly seat against the sleeve and yoke to force the sleeve into the yoke.

Figs. 10 and 11 show a tool 60 for driving in the lateral mass screw 12. The tool includes a handle 61 and a cylindrical section 62 coupled to the handle by a member 65. The member 65 has threads 66 which are engaged by internal threads 67 in a sleeve 70. The sleeve 70 has knurling 71 which assists in rotating the sleeve to bear down against the yoke 16 on the lateral mass screw. The tool is used to screw in and take out the lateral mass screws. The sleeve 70 makes possible the tool being secured to the pedicle screw in a firm and rigid fashion for installing and taking out the

lateral mass screws.

One embodiment of the method of fixation of the spine of this invention includes the steps of driving the screw 12 into the bone at a desired attitude and location. The screw 5 may be placed, for example, in an up and out position typical of a lateral mass screw placement with the yoke 16 located medially of the screw threads. The tool 60 may be used to effect such placement of the screw 12. A further screw 15 is also driven into the bone at a desired attitude and 10 location. The rod 12 is arranged parallel to the spine. The screws 12 and 15 are fixed relative to the rod by connectors 22 and 25. The entire assembly is fixed together by wedging the sleeves 23, 25, 26 and 37 into the respective yokes 26, 16, 26 and 16. This invention also has application in the 15 situation that the screws function as thoracic pedicle screws, occipital screws and/or transarticular screws.

In order to disassemble the instrumentation the sleeves are removed from the yokes. This can be accomplished by a small screw driver or by the tool 80 shown in Fig. 12. Each 20 of the sleeves 32, 35, 36 and 37 has a collar 81. The tool 80 has fingers 82 that are forced apart by the forcing together of the handles 85 causing the sleeves to be forced out of the respective yokes. In the event a small screw driver is used to pry loose the wedging sleeve, it is wedged 25 and toggled between the collar on the sleeve and the yoke.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred 30 embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention are desired to be protected. For example, the invention may have other orthopedic applications other than the spine.

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What is claimed is:

1. Spine fixation instrumentation comprising:
 - a first screw threaded at one end for insertion into the bone and having a first yoke at the other end;
 - 5 a rod adapted to be arranged parallel to the spine;
 - a first connector for fixedly connecting the screw to the rod including a second yoke and a first shaft mounted on said second yoke;
 - a first tapered sleeve received on said shaft and 10 wedged between said first yoke and said shaft and fixing said screw to said connector; and
 - a second tapered sleeve received on said rod and wedged between said second yoke and said rod and fixing said connector to said rod.
- 15 2. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 1 additionally comprising:
 - a second screw threaded at one end for insertion into the bone and having a third yoke at the other end;
 - 20 a second connector for fixedly connecting the second screw to the rod including a fourth yoke and a second shaft mounted on said fourth yoke;
 - a third tapered sleeve received on said second shaft and wedged between said third yoke and said second shaft and fixing said second screw to said second connector; and
 - 25 a fourth tapered sleeve received on said rod and wedged between said fourth yoke and said rod and fixing said second connector to said rod.
3. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 1 wherein said first screw has threads oriented about a first axis, said first yoke has a second axis and said first and second axes are perpendicular to one another.

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4. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 3 wherein said second yoke has a third axis, said first shaft has a fourth axis and said third and fourth axes are perpendicular to one another.

5 5. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 2 wherein said first screw has threads oriented about a first axis; said first yoke has a second axis; said first and second axes are perpendicular to one another; said second yoke has a third axis; said first shaft has a fourth axis; 10 said third and fourth axes are perpendicular to one another; said second screw has threads oriented about a fifth axis, said third yoke has a sixth axis, said fifth and sixth axes are perpendicular to one another, said fourth yoke has a seventh axis, said second shaft has an eighth axis and said 15 seventh and eighth axes are perpendicular to one another.

6. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 1 wherein said sleeves are identical, each of said sleeves being split and having a C-shaped cross section.

7. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 5 20 wherein said sleeves are identical, each of said sleeves being split and having a C-shaped cross section.

8. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 7 wherein each of said sleeves has a collar, said sleeves being removable from the yoke into which they are wedged by 25 inserting a tool between the collar and the yoke.

9. A method for fixation of the spine comprising:
providing a first screw threaded at one end and
having a first yoke at the other end;
screwing said first screw into the bone at a desired

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attitude and location;
arranging a rod parallel to the spine;
providing a first connector having a second yoke and
a first shaft mounted on said second yoke;
5 wedging a first tapered sleeve on said shaft and
between said shaft and said first yoke;
and wedging a second tapered sleeve on said rod and
between said rod and said second yoke.

10. The method for fixation of the spine of claim 9
10 additionally comprising:
providing a second screw threaded at one end and
having a third yoke at the other end;
screwing said second screw into the bone at a
desired attitude and location;
15 providing a second connector having a fourth yoke
and a second shaft mounted on said fourth yoke;
wedging a third tapered sleeve on said second shaft
and between said second shaft and said third yoke; and
wedging a fourth tapered sleeve on said rod and
20 between said rod and said fourth yoke.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said first screw has
threads oriented about a first axis, said first yoke has a
second axis and said first and second axes are perpendicular
to one another.

25 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said second yoke has
a third axis, said first shaft has a fourth axis and said
third and fourth axes are perpendicular to one another.

30 13. The method of claim 10 wherein said first screw has
threads oriented about a first axis; said first yoke has a
second axis; said first and second axes are perpendicular to
one another; said second yoke has a third axis; said first

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shaft has a fourth axis; said third and fourth axes are perpendicular to one another; said second screw has threads oriented about a fifth axis, said third yoke has a sixth axis, said fifth and sixth axes are perpendicular to one another, said fourth yoke has a seventh axis, said second shaft has an eighth axis and said seventh and eighth axes are perpendicular to one another.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein said sleeves are identical, each of said sleeves being split and having a
10 C-shaped cross section.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said sleeves are identical, each of said sleeves being split and having a C-shaped cross section.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein each of said sleeves
15 has a collar, said sleeves being removable from the yoke into which they are wedged by inserting a tool between the collar and the yoke.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the sleeves are wedged by a tool including jaws and arms that are connected
20 at a pivot point.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau
on 26 September 1995 (26.09.95);
original claim 1 amended,
remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

1. Spine fixation instrumentation comprising:
 - a first screw threaded at one end for insertion into bone and having a first yoke at the other end;
 - 5 a rod adapted to be arranged parallel to the spine;
 - a first connector for fixedly connecting the screw to the rod including a second yoke and a first shaft mounted on said second yoke;
 - a first tapered sleeve received on said first shaft and wedged between said first yoke and said first shaft and fixing said first screw to said first connector; and
 - 10 a second tapered sleeve received on said rod and wedged between said second yoke and said rod and fixing said first connector to said rod.
- 15 2. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 1 additionally comprising:
 - a second screw threaded at one end for insertion into the bone and having a third yoke at the other end;
 - a second connector for fixedly connecting the
 - 20 second screw to the rod including a fourth yoke and a second shaft mounted on said fourth yoke;
 - a third tapered sleeve received on said second shaft and wedged between said third yoke and said second shaft and fixing said second screw to said second connector;
 - 25 and
 - a fourth tapered sleeve received on said rod and wedged between said fourth yoke and said rod and fixing said second connector to said rod.
- 30 3. The spine fixation instrumentation of claim 1 wherein said first screw has threads oriented about a first axis, said first yoke has a second axis and said first and second axes are perpendicular to one another.

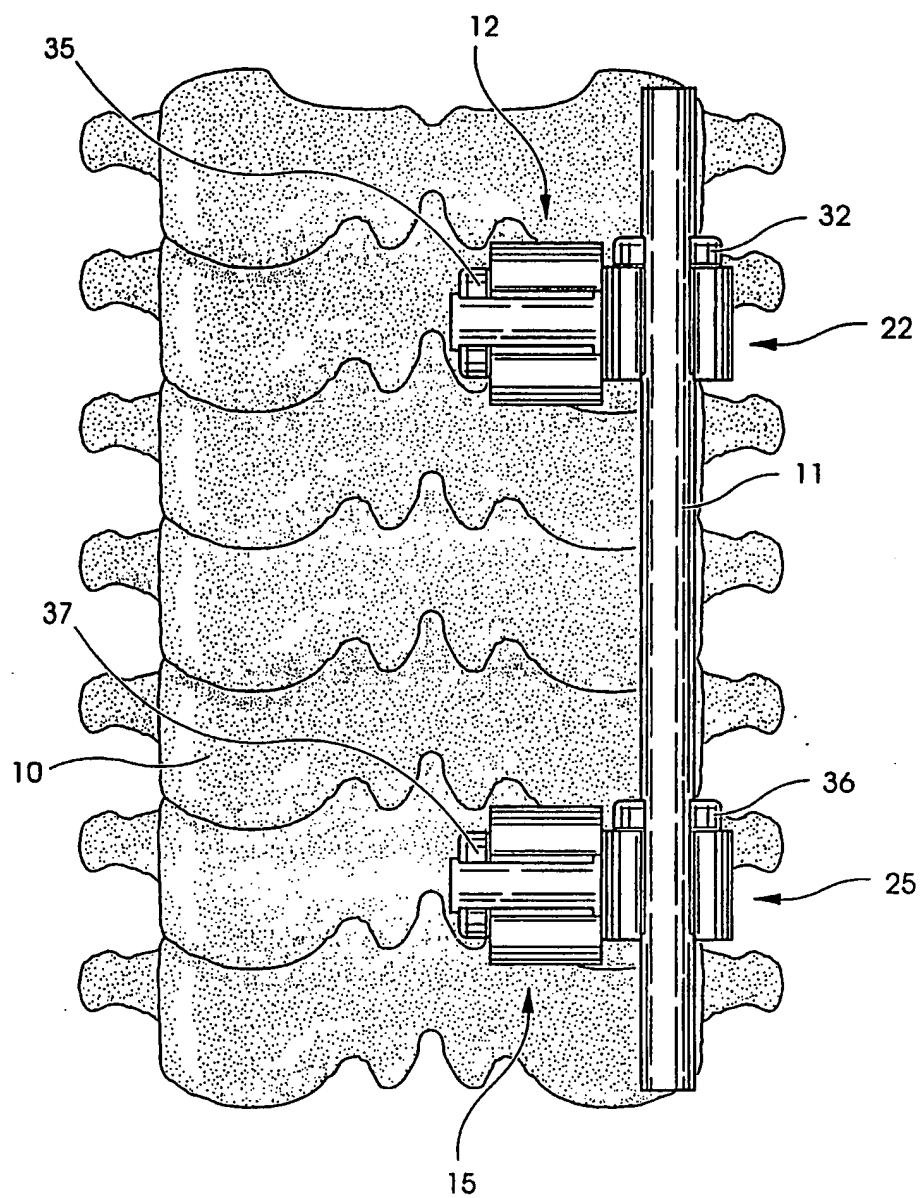


Fig. 1

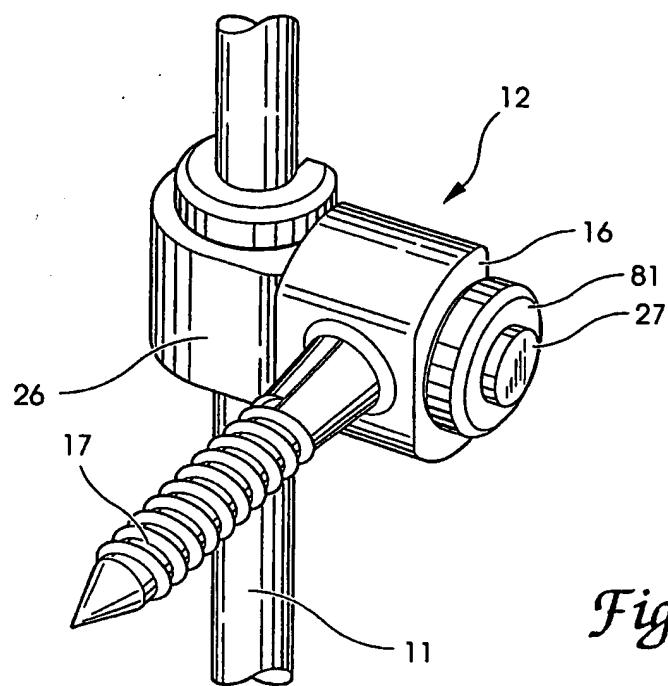


Fig. 2

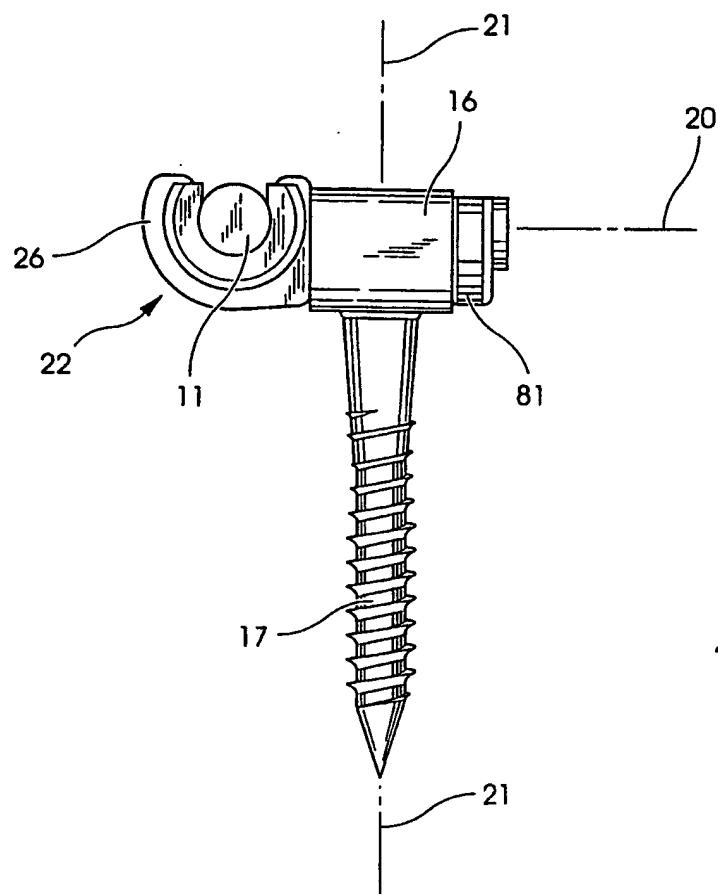


Fig. 3

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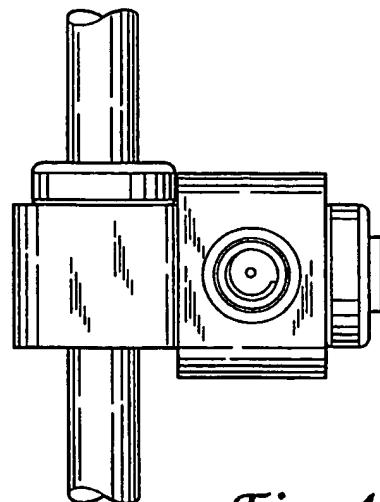


Fig. 4

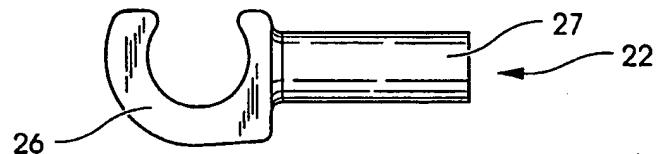


Fig. 5

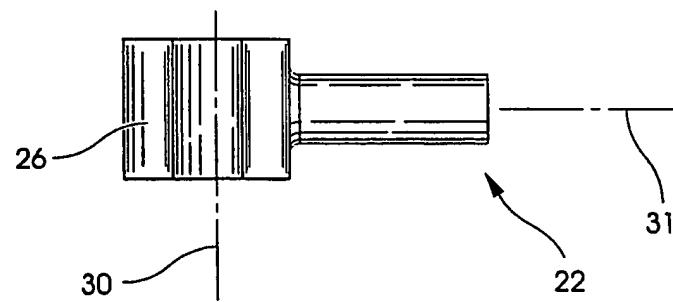


Fig. 6

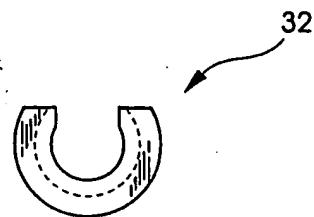


Fig. 7

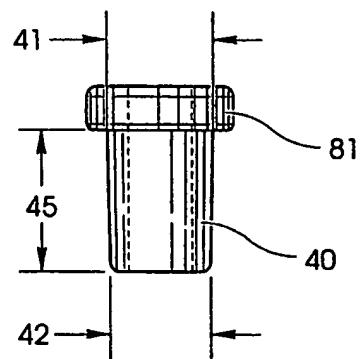
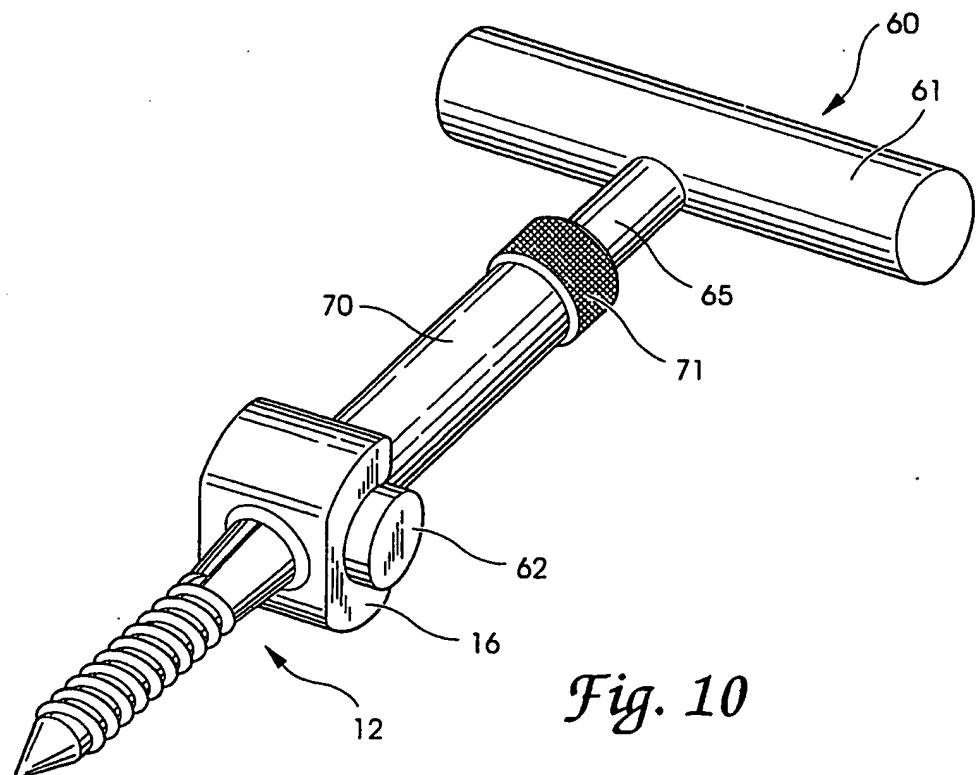
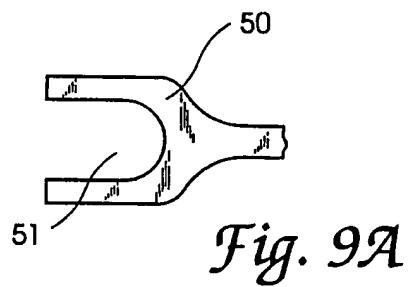
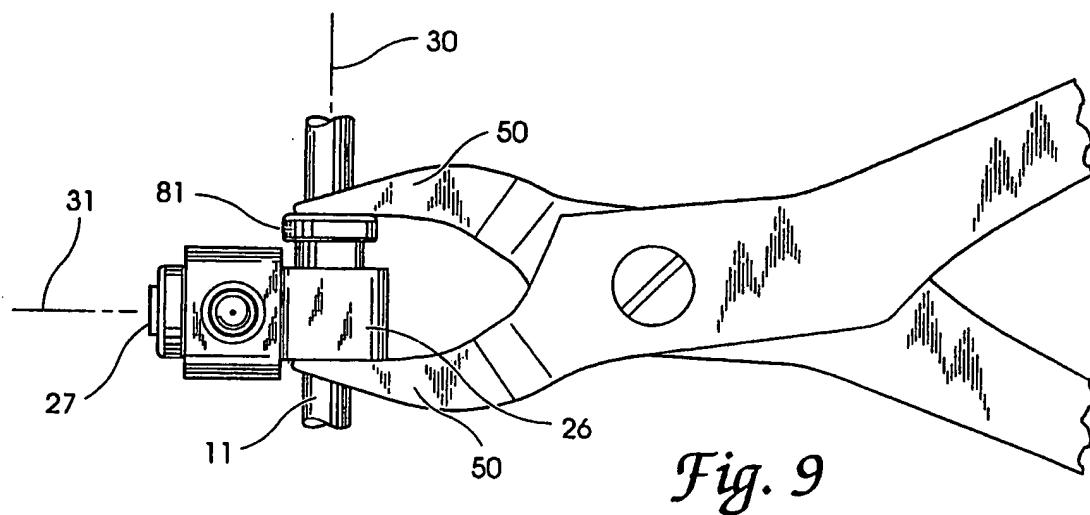
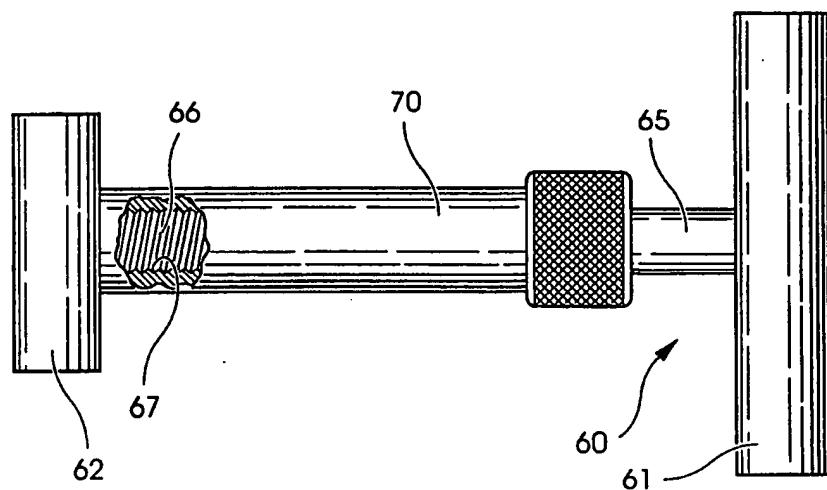
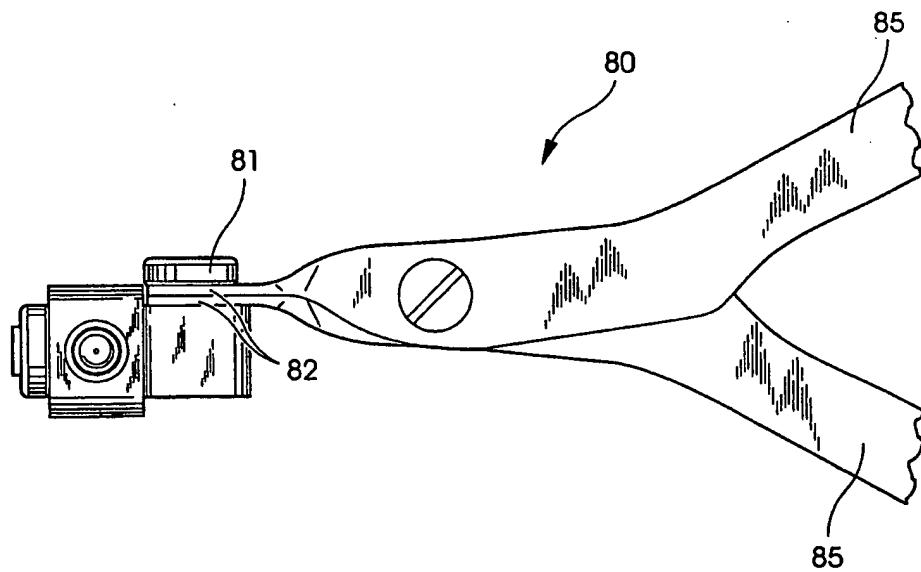


Fig. 8



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*Fig. 11**Fig. 12*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US95/04076

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC(6) :A61B 17/70, 17/86 US CL :606/61, 73; 403/374 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 403/373, 374; 606/60, 61, 73		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) NONE		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y, P	US, A, 5,306,275, (BRYAN), 26 April 1994. See Figs. 1 and 4A-D.	1-17
Y	US, A, 4,815,453, (COTREL), 28 March 1989. See Figs. 3 and 4.	1-17
Y	US, A, 5,010,879, (MORIYA ET AL.), 30 April 1991. See Figs. 1-5.	6-8, 14-17
A	US, A, 5,053,034, (OLERUD), 01 October 1991.	1-17
A	US, A, 5,201,734, (COZAD ET AL.), 13 April 1993.	1-17
A	US, A, 5,181,917, (ROGOZINSKI), 26 January 1993.	1-17
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "A" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 JUNE 1995	Date of mailing of the international search report <i>26 JUL 1995</i>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  SCOTT B. MARKOW Telephone No. (703) 305-3595	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4,433,676, (BOBECHKO), 28 February 1984.	1-17
A	US, A, 5,254,118, (MIRKOVIC), 19 October 1993.	1-17
A	US, A, 5,281,222, (ALLARD ET AL.), 25 January 1994.	1-17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US95/04076

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I. Claims 1-8, drawn to apparatus for spine fixation.

Group II. Claims 9-17, drawn to method for use of apparatus for spine fixation.

Groups I and II, the inventions listed as these groups do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown:

- (1) The process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product, or
- (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product.

Group I, the product as claimed in this group can be used in a different process than the one claimed in Group II. For example, the instrumentation could be used to attach a fixation rod to another bone, such as a fractured femur.